

Amendments to the Specification:

Please delete paragraph 1, on page 2, line 3, which starts with “An additional prior...”

Please replace paragraph 2, on page 2, line 8, which starts with “In use,...” with the following amended paragraph:

Thus, there is a need in the art for a threaded fastener holder that will hold the screw in place at the distal end of the screwdriver, and then automatically disengages from the screw and withdraws axially in the proximal direction to permit the user to continue inserting the screw without interruption.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 3, line 10, which starts with: “Figure 1...” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 1 is a front view of the threaded fastener holder in accordance with the present invention;

Please replace paragraph 3 on page 3, line 12, which starts with: “Figure 2...” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 2 is a front view of the threaded fastener holder of Figure 1 shown engaged with a threaded fastener;

Please replace paragraph 4 on page 3, line 14, which starts with: “Figure 3...” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 is a front view of the threaded fastener holder of Figure 1 shown with the threaded fastener holder automatically moved into an axially proximal position;

Please replace paragraph 5 on page 3, line 16, which starts with: “Figure 4...” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 4-4 of Figure 3 and looking in the direction of the arrows; and

Please replace paragraph 6 on page 3, line 18, which starts with: “Figure 5...” with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 5 is a cross-sectional view taken along line 5-5 of Figure 2 and looking in the direction of the arrows.

Please delete paragraph 7 on page 3, line 20, which starts with: "Figure 6..."

Please delete paragraph 8 on page 3, line 22, which starts with: "Figure 7..."

Please delete paragraph 9 on page 3, line 24, which starts with: "Figure 8..."

Please replace paragraph 10 on page 3, line 29, which starts with: "Referring now..." with the following amended paragraph:

Referring now to Figures 1-5, a threaded fastener holder 100 in accordance with the present invention is illustrated. The threaded fastener holder 100 includes a shaft 102 having a distal end 104 for selectively engaging with a head of a threaded fastener 106, and a proximal end 108. A handle 110 is connected to the proximal end 108 of shaft 102.

Please replace paragraph 2 on page 4, line 12, beginning with "In a rest position..." with the following amended paragraph:

In a rest position, the distal end of the spring fingers 114 is axially spaced from the distal end 104 of shaft 102 by distance A, as illustrated in Figure 3. When the spring fingers engage the head of a threaded fastener 106, the distal end of the spring fingers 114 is approximately axially aligned with the distal end 104 of shaft 102, as illustrated in Figure 2.

Please delete paragraph 3 on page 4, line 17, beginning with "In use,..." with the following amended paragraph:

In use, the threaded fastener holder 100 is held, preferably by handle 110 with one hand, and the user can grasp the inner sleeve 112 with their other hand and slide the inner sleeve, including the plurality of fingers 114, axially in the distal direction B, from the position illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 to the position illustrated in Figure 3, thereby placing spring 116 under tension. During this process the user can connect the fingers 114 to the head of a threaded fastener 106. The tool can then be used in a manner known to those skilled in the art to insert threaded fastener 106 into a bone. Once the threaded fastener is sufficiently inserted into the bone, the fingers will engage with either the bone,

or a fastening plate 20 which engagement automatically causes the fingers 114 to disengage from the head of the threaded fastener 106. Once the fingers 114 are disengaged from the threaded fastener 106, the tension placed on spring 116 will cause the inner sleeve 112 to move axially in the proximal direction C from the position illustrated in Figures 1 and 2 to the normal or rest position illustrated in Figure 3.